

*Carmel, NY* – Congressman John Hall (NY-19) announced today that United States Postal Service (USPS) has agreed to keep the Bellvale Post Office open for a month while options for a new and permanent site are evaluated. The lease for the post office was set to expire on August 31, but last week Rep. Hall urged the Postmaster to find a new site and the lease was extended until the end of September to provide more time to find a permanent solution.

The Bellvale Post Office has been located at a privately owned business (now Mama's Boy Restaurant) on State Route 17A near the foot of Mt. Peter for more than 160 years. Though it provides no home delivery service, the post office serves over 150 customers.

Recently, Rep. Hall was made aware by Phyllis Briller and a number of other residents of Bellvale that the lease on their post office would be expiring with no word on renewal or relocation, effectively ending a long history of service in this community.

"I'm happy to announce that the USPS has decided to extend the lease through the end of September," said Rep. Hall. "I will use this extension period to work with all parties to make sure a solution is found that meets the needs of the community. The residents of Bellvale have relied on the services of a local post office to retrieve mail otherwise undeliverable on its many private roads. To lose service in this area is unacceptable and ill advised."

At the Bellvale Post Office announcement, Rep. Hall was joined by Jerry Shapiro, district operations manager of the USPS; Tom Gaynor, district communications manager of the USPS; and Phyllis Briller, who is a well-known community activist.

"Post offices are not just places to buy stamps or pick up mail—they are often the social and economic hub of a community, where residents congregate and surrounding businesses flourish," remarked Rep. Hall. "This community should not be denied its own hub, and I call on the Postal Service to find a new suitable location that will continue to proudly serve Bellvale."